Plight of weavers

1613. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the plight of the weavers in the absence of adequate protective legislation for them; and

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has any proposal to introduce any comprehensive scheme to give them adequate protection and to save them from exploitation by employers and middlemen?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) The Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 provides for reservation of 11 items for production on handlooms only with a view to protect the interests of the handloom weavers in the country from the encroachment of the powerloom and mill sector on their livelihood. The Government has not received any report from any State Government of the plight of handloom weavers for want of adequate protective legislation.

(b) Does not arise.

Production of textiles through handloom industry during the Tenth Five Year Plan

†1614. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have devised any action plan during the Tenth Five Year Plan, to promote the production of textiles through handloom industry in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum of textiles output fixed to be manufactured by the handloom industries by the end of Tenth Five Year Plan consequent upon implementation of this action plan; and

(d) how it compares to the quantity of the targeted output fixed at the beginning of the Five Year Plan?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.